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MAYOR



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DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD

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**East Hartford Economic Development Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 22, 2021
Meeting held via Microsoft Teams/Teleconference**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Lessard called the meeting to order at 5:36 PM.

Members Present:

Lionel Lessard, Vice Chair & Acting Chair
Phil Davis
Pat Harmon
Anita Morrison
Joelle Murchison
Angie Parkinson
Veronica Rosario

Members Absent:

Carol Noel, Planning & Zoning Commission representative

Guests Present:

Jim Arsenault, Jr.
Michael Daniels, Economic Development Coordinator

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Harmon moved to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2021 meeting.
Ms. Rosario seconded the motion.
All voted in favor, none voted opposed
Motion Passed

3. COMMISSION LEADERSHIP UPDATE & FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

Due to the Chair position being vacant, Vice Chair Lessard is the Acting Chair. Commission members agreed to hold a Special Meeting at either 4:30 or 4:45 PM on September 23rd and to cancel the Regular Meeting at 5:30 PM that day in order to accommodate more members' schedules.

4. PROMOTING EAST HARTFORD TO BUSINESSES

Vice Chair Lessard said he would like to have the Commission promote East Hartford as a location to businesses currently operating outside of the town. Mr. Daniels said a promotional flyer was designed prior to the pandemic that could be used as a tool. He explained that most businesses consider demographic data such as area income and traffic counts when considering where to locate. He suggested that if the commissioners know of or identify any businesses with interest in locating in East Hartford that they refer them to the

Development Department. Ms. Morrison said that she has seen increased activity in the East Hartford market as a real estate agent. Ms. Rosario suggested promoting the town's trails and festivals.

5. AVAILABLE AND VACANT PROPERTIES

Vice Chair Lessard asked Mr. Daniels to identify some notable vacant properties in the town. Mr. Daniels said 88 Long Hill Street has a 96,000 square foot space available for lease that may meet the needs of a larger manufacturer or distributor. Additionally, the former Rogo Distributors building at 65 Roberts Street is offered for lease and has 109,000 square feet. He also noted the availability of retail space on Silver Lane and in the School Street Square area, including the former Rite Aid building.

6. FUTURE BUSINESS VISITS

Mr. Daniels said he would schedule a visit at Rosa's Café on Burnside Avenue, and many commissioners expressed interest in attending. Mr. Daniels said he will also look into planning a visit at the Goodwin University Campus Commons building featuring Rebel Dog Coffee Co. Ms. Murchison said she would reach out to Maryann Cruz about setting up a visit at C3 Creative Collaborative Community.

7. DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT UPDATE

The third session of the Business 101 webinar series will take place on June 22nd, and the fourth session will take place on June 29th. The sessions are hosted by the East Hartford Public Library and feature information for people who own a small business or are interested in starting one. Raytheon Technologies is marketing the Rentschler Field property for a new logistics center that would take advantage of the demand created by e-commerce. Construction at the new Conoco station at 179 Main Street is expected to resume since the Planning & Zoning Commission resolved issues over their canopy design. Construction is also proceeding on gas station/convenience stores at 75 Burnside Avenue and at 249-257 Silver Lane. Daddy's Noodles is expected to move forward at 445 Main Street. Dollar General is now open at 1122 Burnside Avenue.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Murchison moved to adjourn.
Ms. Rosario seconded the motion.
All voted in favor, none voted opposed
Motion Passed

Meeting adjourned at 6:54 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Daniels
Economic Development Coordinator